

side members 22 toward each other and provides two separately adjustable lower stanchions 42—one extending from each of said side members 22. Because the upper stanchions and lower stanchions are independently adjustable, the greatest degree of adjustability is provided, to accommodate trees of different sizes.

Referring to FIG. 3 and FIG. 7, the tree stand 10 is easily folded for compact storage and transport. In particular, since the bracing cables simply prevent the angle between the platform 20 and seat support from over-extending, they do not prevent the seat support from folding inward toward the platform 20 to an angle of nearly zero degrees. Accordingly, although in FIG. 3 the bracing cables 50 have been removed for clarity, they need not be removed before folding the tree stand 10 as shown. In addition, in FIG. 3, the seat has been removed, to allow the seat supports 14 to fold flat, and to keep the seat from extending beyond the front member 24. However, the seat 70 is easily attached between the down-turned protuberances, as shown in FIG. 7. Then, through the use of straps 88, the tree stand 10 is easily donned by a user 120, and worn upon his back 125.

In conclusion, herein is presented a tree stand which may be compactly stored and transported, and which will quickly and easily deploy and adjust to trees of different configurations and having different lean angles to create an elevated platform thereon. The invention is illustrated by example in the various drawing figures contained herein. Numerous variations are possible, while adhering to the inventive concept. Such variations are contemplated as being a part of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A tree stand, for use on a tree, comprising:
  - a platform, comprising a front member, a rear member, and a pair of side members, the front member extending between the side members, the rear member extending between the side members, the side members angled toward each other such that the front member is longer than the rear member, the side members having an open end near the rear member;
  - a pair of seat supports, each having a seat support top, the seat supports pivotally attached to the rear member opposite from the seat support top such that the seat supports are capable of varying an angle formed with the platform;
  - a seat assembly, including a seat, mounted to the seat support tops such that seat is adjustable in height with respect to the platform; and
  - a pair of lower levelers, including a pair of lower stanchions, each of the lower stanchions extending into a respective one of the open ends of one of the side members such that each of said lower stanchions is independently adjustable with respect to said side member to meet varying contours of the tree;
  - a pair of upper levelers, each upper leveler including a sleeve and an upper stanchion mounted for slidable movement within the sleeve, each sleeve mounted to a respective one of the seat supports, the upper levelers each adjustable to accommodate varying contours of the tree; and

a strapping means, for supporting the tree stand upon the tree by extending from one of the seat supports, around the tree, and then to the other of the seat supports.

2. The tree stand as recited in claim 1, further comprising a stabilizing system, for maintaining the angle between the platform and seat supports, having:

a pair of seat support bracing plates, each seat support bracing plate attached to one of the seat supports;

a pair of platform bracing plates, each platform bracing plate attached to one of the side members; and

a pair of bracing cables, each bracing cable extending between one of the seat support bracing plates and one of the platform bracing plates.

3. The tree stand as recited in claim 2, wherein the seat support bracing plates and platform bracing plates each have a gated opening, each gated opening having a plurality of slots, and wherein each bracing cable has a coupling on each end which is capable of securing within the slots, the couplings in the seat support bracing plates may be moved to adjust a vertical position within said seat support bracing plates, the couplers in the platform bracing plates may be moved horizontally to adjust a horizontal position within said platform bracing plates, so as to adjust the angle between the platform and seat supports.

4. The tree stand as recited in claim 3, wherein the seat supports are tubular having an open upper end, and wherein the seat assembly further comprises:

a seat carrier having a pair of parallel seat mounting members and a cross bar extending between the seat mounting members, the seat mounting members are spaced to extend into the seat support and are capable of telescopic height adjustment within the seat support; and

a seat, having a bottom, having a pair of parallel brackets extending longitudinally along the bottom, the brackets fastened to the seat mounting members.

5. The tree stand as recited in claim 4, wherein each of the upper stanchions and lower stanchions have a plurality of transverse bores, and wherein the sleeves and the side members each have a matching hole, such that the matching holes and transverse bores are selectively alignable to allow a pin to extend therethrough to fix the positions of the sleeves and upper stanchions and the side members and lower stanchions.

6. The tree stand as recited in claim 5, wherein the seat mounts are of rectangular cross section, having inner sides which face each other and outer sides which face away from each other, wherein the sleeves are mounted to the inner sides, and wherein the seat support bracing plates are mounted to the outer sides.

7. The tree stand as recited in claim 6, wherein the seat support bracing plates each have a downturned protuberance, and wherein the strapping means is a chain having links, and wherein one of the links of the chain extend into each of the protuberances.

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8. (New) A tree stand, for use on a tree, comprising:

- a seat support disposed generally along a longitudinal axis;
- a strapping mechanism operatively attached to the seat support member for operatively attaching the seat support to a tree;
- a seat operatively attached to a top portion of the seat support;
- a platform operatively (pivotally) attached to a bottom portion of the seat support, said platform having a top portion for permitting a person to stand thereon;
- at least one member operatively attached to the seat support and to the platform to hold the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support;
- an upper leveler mechanism operatively attached to said seat support and to said tree for adjusting the position of the seat support between a first position and a second position with respect to the tree, said first position being closer to the tree than the second position thereof; and
- a locking mechanism for selectively and operatively locking the upper leveler mechanism in a selected one of the first or second positions thereof.

9. (New) The tree stand of claim 8 wherein said upper leveler mechanism includes a first and second sleeve and a respective first and second upper stanchion each mounted for selective movement within the respective first and second sleeve, each of the first and second sleeves being operatively attached to the seat support, the first and second upper stanchions each being independently adjustable with respect to a respective first and second sleeves to accommodate varying contours of the tree.

10. (New) The tree stand of claim 9 including an independent locking mechanism for each sleeve whereby the first stanchion can be in a different locked position with respect to the second stanchion.

11. (New) The tree stand of claim 8 wherein there is a second member operatively attached to the seat support and to the platform to hold the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support.

12. (New) A tree stand, for use on a tree, comprising:  
a seat support disposed generally along a longitudinal axis;  
a strapping mechanism operatively attached to the seat support member for operatively attaching the seat support to a tree;  
a seat operatively attached to the top portion of the seat support;  
a platform operatively attached to a bottom portion of the seat support, said platform having a top portion for permitting a person to stand thereon, a front portion, a rear portion, a first side and a second side, said rear portion having a left side and a right side;

a lower leveler mechanism including left and right side structural members, each being operatively attached to said platform for independently adjusting the position of a respective left and right rear portion of the platform between a first lower leveler mechanism position and a second lower leveler mechanism position with respect to the tree, wherein the first lower leveler mechanism position is closer to the tree than the

second lower leveler mechanism position thereof whereby the platform can be leveled with respect to the left and the right side thereof; and

a left and right side locking mechanism of the respective lower leveler mechanism members for selectively and operatively locking the respective lower leveler members in a selected one of the first or second lower leveler mechanism positions thereof.

13. (New) The tree stand of claim 12, further comprising:

members operatively attached to left and right sides respectively of an upper portion of the seat support and to the platform for holding the top portion of the platform transversely disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seat support;

an upper leveler mechanism operatively attached to said seat support and to said tree for adjusting the position of the seat support and between a first upper leveler mechanism position and a second upper leveler mechanism position with respect to the tree, said first upper leveler mechanism position being closer to the tree than the second upper leveler position thereof whereby the platform can be leveled with respect to the front and the back thereof; and

a locking mechanism for the upper leveler mechanism for selectively and operatively locking the upper leveler mechanism in a selected one of the first or second positions thereof.

14. (New) The tree stand of claim 13 wherein said upper leveler mechanism includes a first and second sleeve and a respective first and second upper stanchion each mounted for selective sliding movement with respect to the respective

first and second sleeve, each of the first and second sleeves being operatively attached to the seat support, the first and second upper stanchions each being independently adjustable with respect to a respective first and second sleeves to accommodate varying contours of the tree.

15. (New) The tree stand of claim 14 including an independent locking mechanism for each sleeve whereby the first stanchion can be in a different locked position with respect to the second stanchion.

16. (New) The tree stand of claim 15 wherein the independent locking mechanism can be used to lock the first stanchion with respect to the sleeve in more positions than just said first and second positions thereof.

17. (New) The tree stand of claim 10 wherein the independent locking mechanism can be used to lock the first stanchion with respect to the sleeve in more positions than just said first and second positions thereof.